

**Agenda of the  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Undergraduate Student Senate**

Speaker Fox  
Zoom Meeting

1842<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order:**
- 2. Announcements:**
- 3. Roll Call:**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes:**
- 5. Officer Reports:**
  - a. University Student Trustee Scalona [studenttrustee@umass.edu](mailto:studenttrustee@umass.edu):**
  - b. President Epstein [sgapresident@umass.edu](mailto:sgapresident@umass.edu):**

Hi everyone! I hope you all have gotten a chance to enjoy the nice spring weather! This week I've continued working on a lot of transition stuff (creating a transition document which doesn't currently exist for the President, organizing my drive and email, wrapping up projects, etc.). I attended the Student Union Management Board meeting, as well as the Spring Implementation meeting where we discussed updates around the vaccine, academics, and planning for the summer and fall. Speaker Fox, Secretary Bennett, and I attended the Five College Student Coordinating Board where we heard updates from student leaders from Amherst College, Smith, and Hampshire (Mount Holyoke folks weren't able to make it). Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!:)

- c. Vice President Chang [sgavicepresident@umass.edu](mailto:sgavicepresident@umass.edu):**
- d. Speaker Fox [sgaspeaker@umass.edu](mailto:sgaspeaker@umass.edu):**

Hi everyone! Hope that you had a great weekend. Since last meeting, I have been working with Associate Speaker Gandhi to check in with each Chair. I have continued to assist with Elections by offering the commission my help, coordinating advertising with our team, and working with the SGA advisor. For meetings, I attended a Student Union Management Board meeting, 5 college coordinating board with SGA leaders from the 5 colleges, and I met with the Chief of Staff to coordinate what in-person office staffing will look like. I will be attending a SACLSAB, Wellness Wednesday task force meeting, Fall Academic Planning, and a meeting to see a demo of SGA communications going through the MyUMass App. Please let me know if you need anything and we can chat via email/slack/Zoom. Thanks!

**e. Associate Speaker Gandhi [sgaspeaker@umass.edu](mailto:sgaspeaker@umass.edu):**

Hello SGA! This week, I checked in with all our chairs, along with Speaker Fox to make sure they are on track with their committee's goals for this semester. I attended the SACL student advisory board meeting on Tuesday. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, thanks so much!

**f. Chief Justice (if requested) [sgajudiciary@umass.edu](mailto:sgajudiciary@umass.edu):**

**g. Residence Hall Association President [rha@sacl.umass.edu](mailto:rha@sacl.umass.edu):**

**h. RSO Council Presidents:**

**i. Agency Reports:**

**j. Cabinet:**

**Secretary Abramson [sgaregistry@umass.edu](mailto:sgaregistry@umass.edu):**

**Secretary Bennett [sgapolicy@umass.edu](mailto:sgapolicy@umass.edu):** Hi everyone, I hope you're doing well,

- This past week I attended Cabinet's regularly scheduled meeting to prepare for the new administration and to begin prepping my transition binder which I'm hoping to work on this coming weekend.

- I attended the Five College Coordinating Board meeting with SGA members from other colleges in the consortium, where we shared community updates, continued challenges posed by COVID, and expectations for commencement and next year.

- As of submitting this report, I plan on attending the first portion of the Center for Education Policy and Advocacy's Food Justice training, as well as the Amherst Town Council Meeting on Monday evening.

**Chief of Staff Cohen** [sgachiefstaff@umass.edu](mailto:sgachiefstaff@umass.edu): Hi all! Wishing everyone a good week after the stress of elections and midterms. Here is my report out. Let me know if you have any questions

1. Met with speaker Fox to discuss possibility of in person office hours

2. Worked on scheduling last Legislative Executive Conference meeting (Please fill out when2meet if you have not already)

3. Continuing to work on transition binder

**Secretary Duddy** [sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu](mailto:sgaveteransaffairs@umass.edu): This week I have been devoting my time to my transition binder and consolidating all of my work as well as ideas, to the binder.

**Attorney General Latimer-Ireland** [sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu](mailto:sgaattorneygeneral@umass.edu):

**Secretary Lechowicz** [sgatechnology@umass.edu](mailto:sgatechnology@umass.edu): Website Updates

- As elections unfolded and came to a close this week, I've been keeping up with updates to the two primary websites (Elections homepage and "Meet the Candidates"), up to date, but things have absolutely fallen through the cracks. Please email me if there's a mistake/error that you've encountered!

- I have started working on my transition binder and generally am doing a whole lot of "spring cleaning" with my drive and the website.

- The Elections page will remain the front page of the website until Friday, at which point the website will switch back to “business as usual”.

#### Meetings

- I have been attending the Chancellor’s Flexible Learning Task Force Steering Committee - the task force is exploring the future of multimodal and so-called “hybrid” pedagogical approaches at the University and related fields.

- I attended another meeting of the “Fall Academic Affairs Planning” group with admin to discuss calendar, curriculum, and course modality concerns regarding this upcoming fall semester.

**Secretary McKenna** [sgapolicy@umass.edu](mailto:sgapolicy@umass.edu):

**Secretary Montilla** [sgadiversity@umass.edu](mailto:sgadiversity@umass.edu): -we’re finding time to organize an event to educate students about the importance of land acknowledges.

-went to sojec this monday and finalized touches on the cmass/sga event.

-kept working on title 7

-kept working on the survivor’s bill of rights

-communicated with some groups about the antisemitism training

**Secretary Morel-Paletta** [sgasustainability@umass.edu](mailto:sgasustainability@umass.edu):

**Secretary Ngo** [sgafinance@umass.edu](mailto:sgafinance@umass.edu):

**Secretary Yee** [sgapublicrelations@umass.edu](mailto:sgapublicrelations@umass.edu):

**k. Faculty Senate Representative:**

**l. ESO Event Representative:**

**m. Vice Chancellor’s Student Advisory Board Representative:**

#### **6. Senate Committee Reports:**

**Chair Antinori** [sgaegradexperience@umass.edu](mailto:sgaegradexperience@umass.edu): Hi everyone! The main update I have for this week is that Kathy Wicks and Laurie Simmons are in the process of reviewing our committee's proposal that on campus students receive reusable bags to use in dining halls.

**Chair Carino** [sgaacademic@umass.edu](mailto:sgaacademic@umass.edu): Hello! This week I continued to send reminders about iClickers and updated/organized the spreadsheet so we will be good to go to send out materials when we are able too. The “iClicker task force” meets wednesdays at 3:30 and we would always love help! This week were also joined by MassPIRG representatives and will be placing a motion on next week’s agenda to endorse their OER petition. We are also cosponsors of Senator Sucheki’s motion this week and are super excited to see this initiative go through! It was a glaring issue that we’re happy to help resolve (thanks for letting us know, Trustee Scalona!!)

**Chair Curto** [sgaoutreach@umass.edu](mailto:sgaoutreach@umass.edu): Hey everyone! I hope you all are doing well! I can’t believe we’ve almost made it through another election! This week I have been working on getting SGA face masks ordered so hopefully those will be ordered soon. I have also started once again to look at the Consultation Policy so I hope to bring that up to you all soon at a COTW. Other than that I have started to look at all the descriptions of committees and wanted to have those rewritten. I really think that what is written can be a lot better. I am also still looking into the merch because I picked a company now I just need peoples help designing the items and then it will be ready for you all to buy shortly after! I have also continued to work with Secretary Yee getting stuff posted on our socials! As always if you have any questions feel free to reach out!!

**Chair Dacey** [sgawaysmeans@umass.edu](mailto:sgawaysmeans@umass.edu):

**Chair Gabriel** [sgasojec@umass.edu](mailto:sgasojec@umass.edu): Hello all, spent the past week continuing work pushing for SBOR to pass in this election - wrote an article with other members about the need for a SBOR in the collegian. Otherwise, spent the week prepping for our event this week!

**Chair Jensen** [sgauroc@umass.edu](mailto:sgauroc@umass.edu):

**Chair Kendall** [sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu](mailto:sgaadminaffairs@umass.edu):

**Chair Rajkumar** [sgafinancecommit@umass.edu](mailto:sgafinancecommit@umass.edu):

7. **SGA Advisor Lydia Washington** [lwash@umass.edu](mailto:lwash@umass.edu):

8. **The Committee of the Whole:**

**9. Special Orders:**

**2021-SO14**

Motion to ratify the Spring 2021 General Elections.

*Sponsored by the Elections Commission.*

**10. Unfinished Business - Main Motions:**

**11. New Business - Main Motions:**

**2021-S24**

**Whereas**, there currently do not exist bylaws, or funding guidelines, regarding the process for applying for New RSO Start-Up Funds, and there needs to exist bylaws to determine eligibility in grants, and

**Whereas**, newly approved RSOs are not able to apply for a budget for the following fiscal year because they have been formed *after* yearly Moodle Trainings were due and because their Speedkeys have not been set up in time to apply for a budget request to the Ways and Means Committee for the next fiscal year, and

**Whereas**, there currently exists a New RSO Start-Up Fund Request template on Campus Pulse and groups have and continue to apply for this money, it is necessary to govern these allocations with appropriate bylaws,

**Title 6, Chapter 10,**

**Chapter 10**

Appropriation of Revenue - The Finance Committee

**Section 1** RSO's, including Agencies, but with the exception of Student Businesses, as defined by Title VII of the By-laws of the SGA, within seven (7) calendar days prior to a

scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee may petition the Finance Committee, herein denoted the Committee, for an appropriation from the Finance Reserves.

**Section 2** The Committee shall require information from the petitioning RSO which shall include, but may not be limited to, the information prescribed herein:

1. The RSO's and Agency's financial posture.
2. The event, item, or project for which the RSO or Agency is petitioning for an appropriation.

**Section 3** All petitioning RSOs or Agencies shall be entitled to a hearing before the Committee.

**Section 4** The Committee shall hear all petitions, determine eligibility for Finance Reserves appropriations and shall be empowered to appropriate grants or loans of up to and including 2.5% of the Emergency Finance Reserves allocation.

**Section 5** Petitions for over 2.5% of the Emergency Finance Reserves allocation shall be submitted to the Senate, with the Committee's recommendation, in the form of a Main Motion, forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the next scheduled Senate meeting, and the petitioner(s) shall be notified of such.

**Section 6** Petitions for appropriations from the Finance Reserves shall be evaluated by uniform criteria which shall include, but may not be limited to, those prescribed herein:

1. Community Enrichment.

2. Organizational Development.
3. Number of persons expected to derive benefit from the event, item, or project.
4. The appropriation could not be reasonably met through the Annual SGA S-1 Budget Act.

**Section 7** Finance Reserves appropriations which shall have been denied may be appealed to the Senate through the Committee Chair.

**Section 8** Emergency Funding shall be defined as monies supplied in order to ensure that a group or event is able to function according to the group's mission statement during unforeseen circumstance(s). This may include but is not limited to, qualifying for competitions, repairing or replacing damaged equipment essential to RSOs mission, unforeseen additional costs to hold events essential to RSOs mission, loss of grants or funding from outside bodies, or any other costs that could have not possibly been predicted or budgeted for during allocations. Funding shall be prioritized based upon the group's ability to prepare a budget when applying to the Ways and Means Committee, as well as their ability to maintain their accounts throughout the fiscal year, the cost/benefit to the student body, and opportunities for student participation; preference may be given to items/goods kept and maintained by the group.

**Section 9** The Finance Committee shall be able to grant New RSO Start-Up Funds, as requested by the RSO, of up to and at most \$750. The funding guidelines for emergency funding grants will also be the basis of the criteria for the start-up funds. Groups may not be allowed to request funds for expenses that are prohibited by the funding guidelines. A new RSO shall be defined for these purposes as:

12. A group that has just been formed and granted RSO status by the Secretary of the Registry during the RSO Application Process; and
13. Has been active for two semesters or less; and

14. And has not existed for long enough to qualify to submit a budget through the Ways and Means Committee.

*Sponsored by Chair Rajkumar, Chair Dacey, Secretary Abramson, Senator Marceau,  
and Associate Speaker Gandhi*

**2021-S25**

**Whereas**, according to the Office of the University Registrar undergraduate students at UMass Amherst may only repeat courses in which they score a C- or below if they hope to have the former score on their transcript replaced, **and**;

**Whereas**, it is not uncommon for courses at UMass Amherst to have minimum grade requirements set in order to advance onto the next class in the course sequence, **and**;

**Whereas**, many such courses' minimum grade requirements are set higher than the C- or lower than that is necessary to repeat the course, **and**;

**Whereas**, students who score between the C- repeat maximum and a higher minimum grade to progress in the course sequence may find themselves unable to continue on the course sequence as they are unable to retake their required course, **and**;

**Whereas**, College Deans empowered to override the repeat grade maximum often decline to do so or refuse to allow those credits to count, even when such an override is essential for the students' ability to continue in the course sequence, **and**;

**Whereas**, a student's inability to retake a required course when they have failed to meet the minimum grade requirement may force students to change their major entirely, **therefore**;

**Be it resolved** that the Student Government Association urges the Office of the Registrar to immediately amend its Repeated Courses policy to permit all courses with minimum grade requirement to be repeated should a student's score not meet the required grade for progression in the sequence so as to ensure no more students are arbitrarily pushed out of their field of study.

*Sponsored by Senator Suchecki and the Academic Oversight Committee*

**15. Business Not Anticipated 48 Hours Prior To:**